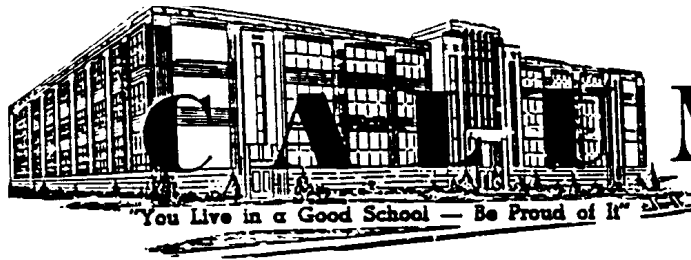


# THE WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI



# CALUMET

SUMMER / FALL 2000  
ISSUE # 3

## WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

## WHS ALUMNI COMMITTEE

### Co-Presidents:

Harold Braff, 1952  
Faith Howard, 1982

### Treasurer:

Sheldon Bross, 1955

### Secretary:

Lois Attles-Wyatt, 1954

### Committee Chairs:

### Membership:

Adilah Thomas Quddus, 1971

### Events:

Faith Howard, 1982

### Newsletter

Phil Yourish, 1964

### Tutoring / Mentoring:

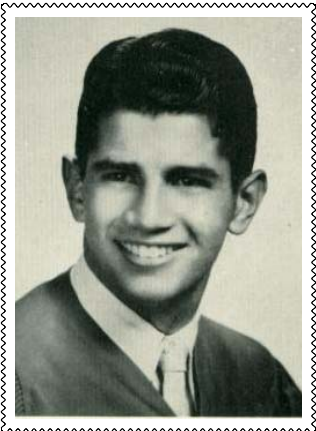
David Lieberfarb, 1965

### WHS Liaison

Lorraine White, 1964

### Committee Members

Sylvester Allen, 1971  
Reuben Alston, 1982  
Edna Bailey, (WHS Principal)  
Marshall Cooper, 1969  
Joseph Foushee  
Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert, 1960  
Gerry Greenspan, 1959  
Eugene Lawson, 1970  
Myra Lawson, 1970  
Charles Meadows, (EX-WHS Principal)  
Denise Muhammad, 1972  
Charles Talley, 1966  
Abdur-Rahmaan A. Wadud, 1971  
Sam Weinstock, 1955



THE  
WAY  
WE  
WERE





**OUR  
MEMORIES  
INSPIRE THE  
DESIRE TO BE  
INVOLVED IN THE  
WHS ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
TODAY**

By Hal Braff, Class of 1952  
President, WHS  
Alumni Association

We were a neighborhood. Our school was the center of our community - the Y was a bus ride away on High Street - and our heroes were the young men with brown and orange numbers who battled each Saturday in the Fall for the "Honor of Weequahic High."

Most games were played at Schools Stadium on Bloomfield Avenue - a long number 6 bus ride away. We played Central, Barringer, East Side, South Side and West Side in the City League, but win or lose no rivalry compared to the heart pounding excitement of Thanksgiving morning - 11 AM - at Woodfield Stadium in Hillside.

Our huge and enormously talented band filled the field, exciting the thousands of us who packed the wooden bleachers before the game and at the half, braving the bitter cold, joining the imploring cheerleaders as they shouted

***Double U, Double E, Q-U-A-H-I-C***

and admiring the brilliance of the twirlers.

*In 1946 we lost 20-6,    In 1947 we lost 20-7  
In 1948 we lost 20-0,    In 1949 we lost 20-7*

The results hardly mattered. The team was ours. We belonged with and to each other. When Lefty Leiwant threw a touchdown pass to Jack Charwin in 1946; when Len Alpert grabbed Seymour Weiss' pass in 1947; when Harry Braelow intercepted a lateral in 1948; when Gerry Safier caught Len Geller's long pass in 1949 - we felt the thrill as neighbors. They did that for us and we loved them for it.

Now we are dispersed - we don't live together any more. Yet Lefty still brings hundreds of people together regularly to remember and revere those glory days. It is from the way we felt as kids watching our heroes and grateful to be a part of such a world that the Weequahic High School Alumni Association was born. Our goal is to channel the energy the memories of those days inspire to join together once again - to build an all alumni computer bank, to support reunion efforts and to provide opportunities for today's Weequahic kids who otherwise cannot afford it - to get a college education.

***WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US***

# HAIL WEEQUAHIC

Our challenge to the Orange and Brown  
As Orange and Brown we sway  
Undaunted our refrain is sung  
Weequahic will win the fray.

All hail our steadfast Indian Host  
Of braver warriors, none can boast,  
And we will fight to do or die  
And win for you, dear Weequahic High

It's so hard, to be an Indian,  
It's so hard to be a Weequahic Indian.

No one knows what tomorrow holds  
But we have to keep the faith alive.  
It's so hard to do, when  
there are ups and downs.  
Yet, Weequahic taught us to strive.

So, hail fond Weequahic  
We pledge our faith and honor true.  
Your mighty name will loudly ring  
To Weequahic High, praises we sing.

It's so hard, to be an Indian,  
It's so hard to be a Weequahic Indian.

From our fortress on the hill,  
Where we stand side by side,  
We sing your praises with a will,  
As family we rise!



## Excerpts From Principal Edna Bailey's Message to the Class of 2000

*You have the distinction of being Weequahic High School's first graduating class of the new millennium. ...You are about to enter a new stage in your life. I challenge you to walk with pride, dignity, and self-respect. Your achievements will be based upon your effort and commitment. Remember, success is not measured by the money you earn or the position you achieve; it is measured by how well you live your life as a human being.*



## HORATIO ALGER AWARDS

Three senior students from Weequahic High School in Newark were presented with scholarships worth a total of \$12,000 at a youth seminar on Friday, January 14th at the school.

The students are among only six in New Jersey to receive the scholarships, awarded by the Horatio Alger Association - a non-profit educational organization that awards scholarships nationwide. **Vaughn Crowe**, a recent scholarship winner and Weequahic High School graduate, was the keynote speaker.

**Paul Annan** was presented with a \$10,000 National Scholarship, **Anneka Elliot** a \$1,500 State Scholarship, and **Bertha Boateng** a \$500 Student Achievement Scholarship. As a National Scholarship winner, Paul traveled - all expenses paid - to the association's National Scholars Conference in Washington DC in May.

# THE CLASS OF 2000 OUR FUTURE TODAY



## VALEDICTORIAN YAW DANSO

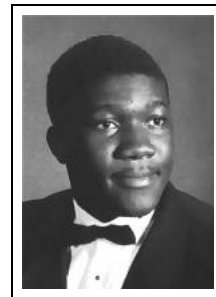
### ABOUT WEEQUAHIC'S VALEDICTORIAN

**YAW APPIAH DANSO**, son of Timothy Nti, will study architecture at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. This summer he will continue his involvement as tutor for a youth program.

At Weequahic, Yaw was active in the Scholars Club and Peer Leadership Club and participated in the Math Olympics. He was a private tutor, took part in the Ace mentor program, and volunteered at a day care center.

Yaw was a member of the National Honor Society and attained High Honor Roll accolades. He was a Star-Ledger Scholar, Student of the Month, and maintained perfect attendance. He was cited by First Union Bank for his extra-curricular activities and received a CIT group scholarship and Award for Excellence from Rep. Donald Payne.

"During high school, I've focused my energy, time and efforts into preparing myself for college," Yaw said. "During the fall and summer, I was busy working and learning. Now, I can say that I have prepared myself fully for college and gained enough experience with respect to my career choice."



## SALUTATORIAN PAUL ANNAN

## WHS ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

For the third consecutive year, the Jaqua Foundation, headed by Weequahic alumni, Eli Hoffman, has contributed to the WHS Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. The following four students were selected for \$1,000 scholarships by Weequahic faculty.



### BERTHA BOATENG

Rutgers  
University -  
Camden



### SUE ANN WALKER

Rutgers  
University -  
Camden



### MICHAEL YARBOROUGH

St. Peters  
College



### DESIREE MIDDLETON

Morgan State  
College

## CLASS OF 1949 \$1,000 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

### IRVING BROWN

Class President  
SUNY -  
Morrisville



## JUDGE CARL STEWART OF THE 5TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS SPEAKS TO WEEQUAHIC STUDENTS

By Dave Lieberfarb, Class of 1965

A history-making judge was the keynote speaker at Weequahic's Black History Month assembly on February 9th.

The **Honorable Carl E. Stewart** of Shreveport, La., became the first African-American to serve on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals when he was appointed by President Clinton in 1994. The circuit court, which has jurisdiction over the once-segregated states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, has a proud history of support for the civil rights movement.

His very presence as a member of that court, Judge Stewart said, was partially the result of decisions made by his predecessors to enforce the 1954 Supreme Court decision that mandated an end to segregation in the Jim Crow South.

Invited and introduced by Hal Braff, president of the Weequahic Alumni Association, Judge Stewart stressed the importance of faith, perseverance and courage in overcoming life's obstacles. One of three brothers who all became lawyers, he graduated from an all-black high school and an all-black college.

*"It was while I was in high school that I set goals for myself," Judge Stewart said. "I was inspired greatly not only by my parents but by the climate of my community. In other words, to escape. Where you start does not have to determine where you end up," said the judge.*

---

***"Dream no small dreams," the judge concluded. "They have no magic in them. Set your goals high."***

---

While in college, the future lawyer had a summer job in an ammunition plant, dangerous work that gave him further motivation to persevere in his education. *"That is going to be your meal ticket," he told the Weequahic students. "You must stay focused on the main goal."* Judge Stewart reminded the students that "we live in a diverse culture. You're going to have to compete against people of all cultures, so you'll have to prove yourselves worthy."

Stressing the importance of lifelong learning, he said, *"Some of you are going to hold three or four jobs in your lifetime."* For some of those career changes, retraining will be required. *"Education is the bridge,"* he added, noting that for years he avoided learning how to use computers. *"I was a dinosaur,"* he said, but eventually he recognized the importance of becoming computer-literate.



*"Dream no small dreams," the judge concluded. "They have no magic in them. Set your goals high."*

Judge Stewart continued a theme begun by Newark Mayor Sharpe James, who praised the efforts of the Weequahic Alumni Association: *"They got something out of Weequahic High School; now they want to give something back to help us."*

The mayor quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who made one of his last public appearances in Newark in 1968 before his assassination: *"Learn, baby, learn so you can earn, baby, earn."*



From left to right: WHS student, Nekpen Ereyi, Carl Stewart, and Princess Towe, Chair of English Department.

## Excerpts From Judge Carl Stewart's Letter To Principal Edna Bailey

I deeply appreciated the warm greeting that I received typified by the special banner welcoming me as well as the genuinely friendly conversations that I had with members of your staff.

I was delighted to meet your students and was proud to have taken several photographs with them, both before and after the program.

Providing high quality education to lower income and often inner-city youth is a formidable challenge to dedicated professionals such as yourself.

I found the young people to be wonderful, very attentive during my speech, and very complimentary in their remarks as I exited the auditorium.

I had a chance to take a tour of the high school and met other students and was even more impressed by their demeanor and their sincerity in trying to achieve their educational goals.



# Sportswriter Sid Dorfman Honored at 1999 Homecoming

*On Saturday, October 25th, Sid Dorfman, 79, an alumnus who has spent 63 of those years in the newspaper business, was honored by the WHS Alumni Association at the 3rd annual Homecoming football game.*

*He is often referred to as the "Dean of New Jersey sportswriters" and on May 14, 1998, he was inducted into The Sports Hall of Fame of New Jersey. Below is a recent article by Star-Ledger writer Brad Parks about Sid when he was inducted into the NJSIAA Hall of Fame. In the picture on the right, Dorfman is in the middle flanked by former football star Franco Harris and Leonard Coleman, the former President of the National League (Baseball).*



## Excerpts from an article by Brad Parks, Star-Ledger

There were only three high school sports that mattered back then, since anything outside football, basketball or baseball was considered irrelevant. There was only one town that mattered then, since anything too far west of Newark was considered wild frontier.

And the newspaper that carried this smattering of high school sports news, which was then called the Morning Ledger, cost less than a nickel. That was the sporting world Star-Ledger columnist Sid Dorfman began as a 16-year-old at Weequahic High School in 1936, and it was a world he spent a lifetime changing.

For the innovation he brought to New Jersey high school sports coverage, and for the energy and time he spent doing it for 63 years, Dorfman was inducted into the NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Hall of Fame yesterday along with seven others at a luncheon in Edison.

"To me, personally, Sid Dorfman is the father of high school sportswriting in the state of New Jersey," said NJSIAA Assistant Director Ernest Finizio, Jr. "His conscientiousness, his dedication, and his sincerity has helped to promote high school athletics to the extent it is today."

Dorfman got his start calling in reports of Weequahic basketball games to the Ledger. In 1937, a man named Stewart Morrison started the Metropolitan

News Service and made Dorfman the sports editor. Nine months later, as Dorfman tells it, Morrison ran away with his secretary and the payroll money.

Shortly thereafter, Dorf Feature Service - which still provides The Star-Ledger high school sports coverage - was born. "The thing has grown from a tiny seed into what it is today," Dorfman said. "At that time, we were barely functioning, whereas today I feel we have the number one high school coverage in the country. That's not just me being biased. In my travels, I've picked up other newspapers and I've never seen anything our equal."

Dorfman introduced the Top 20 poll to the newspaper shortly after joining it. Through the years, he championed other causes, from the inclusion of sports outside of football, basketball and baseball, to increased coverage of girl's sports.

NJSIAA Executive Director Boyd Sands called Dorfman a pioneer and a critical figure in the continued success of his organization. "When we go to national conventions, we're the envy of all the other states because of the high school sports coverage we get," Sands said. "We owe a lot of that to Sid."

..."I'm going to keep going as long as I can function," Dorfman said. "I wouldn't know what to do with myself when I got up in the morning if I couldn't go to the office. To me, this is absolutely a labor of love."

## Sid's Other Accomplishments:

Dorfman was particularly cited as a golf writer and in 1990, a column he wrote was judged the best in the nation by the Golf Writers' Association of America, and was put on exhibit at the World Golf Hall of Fame in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's he booked high school basketball games into Seton Hall University and raised directly or indirectly some \$1000,000 for the fight against infantile paralysis or polio.

Some of his other awards include:

- 1962** - Inducted into Old Time Athletic Hall of Fame
- 1972** - NJ Sportswriters Association Distinguished Service Award and honorary life membership
- 1982** - NJ Interscholastic Coaches Association Service Award
- 1987** - Boys and Girls Club of Newark Philip Dameo Memorial Award
- 1988** - Inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame
- 1989** - NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Award
- 1992** - First Fidelity Bank Humanitarian Award, Seton Hall University Larry Keefe Memorial Award
- 1993** - NJ Genesis Drug & Alcohol Program Humanitarian Award, Athletic Advisory Board-NJIT, Honorary Chairman, United Way in Mountainside, Honorary Member, U.S. PGA and NJ PGA

## **Alumni Profile: CAREY HAMILTON CLASS OF 1976**

Excerpts from a Star-Ledger article by Barbara Kukla

Carey Hamilton has never forgotten his alma mater, the Link Community School. That's why the Newark caterer, a member of Link's first graduating class nearly 30 years ago, was dishing up soul food the other night at the Gateway Hilton.

Hamilton was contributing his time and talent to "A Taste of Newark," a major fund-raiser for the Central Ward private school where he attended seventh and eighth grades. Between serving patrons of the event choice morsels of his soul food specialties, Hamilton couldn't say enough about Link's impact on his life - how the strong educational foundation he

got at the Central Ward private school inspired him to complete high school and go on to college.

"Link saved my life, teaching me that I had a future," Hamilton said. "I grew up at a time when the drug scene was just developing, and I could have easily been caught up in it. I had older friends who were. Link provided the protective environment that I needed to build my self-esteem."

After graduating from **Weequahic High School** and attending Glassboro State College, Hamilton, now 42, eventually got into the food business. "From waiting tables to running my own catering business, I've been involved in just about every aspect of the food industry," said the South Ward resident. For several years, he's also worked part-time at WBGO/Jazz 88, putting him close to another of his passions - jazz.

Hamilton said he called his alma mater to get involved in "A Taste of Newark" because he wanted to give back something to the institution that had given him the foundation for all he's become.



## **Leo Pearl, former teacher & vice-principal, passes away at 78**

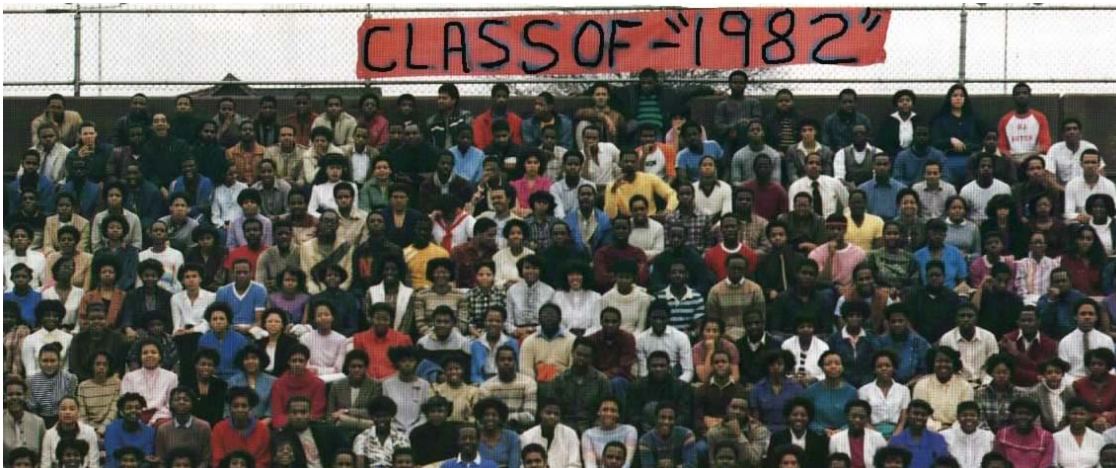
Leo Pearl, who was employed by the Newark School System for 41 years, passed away. Mr. Pearl was the supervisor of the physical education department for the Newark schools from 1980 until retiring in 1987.

Earlier, Mr. Pearl had been a physical education teacher at the South Street School in Newark. He also taught and coached at Weequahic High School from 1957 through 1965, where he served as vice-principal from 1966 through 1980.

and physical education from Panzer College. In 1948 he received a master's degree in education administration and supervision from Rutgers University.

From 1955 through 1962, he served as the general manager of Spring Garden Country Club in Florham Park. From 1963 through 1980, he was general manager of the Skyline Tennis and Cabana Club in Jersey City.

During World War II, Mr. Pearl served with the Marine Corps and the Navy from 1943 through 1946. Born in Newark, he lived in Maplewood for 36 years before moving to Long Branch in 1987. Surviving are Ada, his wife of 54 years; a son, Ronald; two daughters, Mrs. Laurie Howard and Mrs. Dana Buschinski, and four grandchildren.



## Weequahic Teacher, Advisor and Principal, BENJAMIN EPSTEIN, Passes Away at 87

By Meg Nugent, Star-Ledger

It was 10 years ago when Miriam Cahn asked her father, Benjamin Epstein, to make some audiotapes about their family.

"I wanted a history of my origins," recalled Cahn. "I knew there were many details I could never recall and I wanted them so I could give them to my children and to my children's children."

Mr. Epstein happily complied, spending hours creating a five-tape narrative he titled "The Saga," an oral history drenched in detail about growing up in Newark during the first half of the 20th century. Mr. Epstein, who also shared his talents as a spell-binding raconteur with his students as an educator in the Newark school system, died July 13 at Bey Lea Village in Toms River after a long illness. He was 87.

Mr. Epstein, a native of Newark who moved to Toms River 20 years ago, filled the tapes with remarkable stories about life in the city's Third Ward. The eldest of three children, he spoke of how he got his first job at 5 years old, shortly after the death of his father. He helped his seamstress mother make ends meet by going to a synagogue three times a day to say Kaddish, the prayer for the dead, in his father's memory, said son-in-law Jeffrey Cahn.

He would get tipped a few pennies for being the "reminding person," who would leave the synagogue during the course of the service to tell those waiting outside it was time to go to say the Kaddish, Cahn said.

Mr. Epstein also talked about growing up in a flat without heat, an indoor toilet or running water. He spoke of the importance of the city's public baths, the only place where city residents could wash since they had no indoor plumbing at home.

Years later, Mr. Epstein would use his ability as an orator to describe to the American Jewish community the scenes of persecution he witnessed during a short stint as a student in Germany. Mr. Epstein had gone to Germany during the early 1930s to study medicine, but that dream ended when he and other American Jews were advised to get out of Germany and go home, said Miriam Cahn.



"He gave lectures to the Jewish community about the horrors of what was happening in Germany," she said. But since it was the early days of Hitler's rule, she said, "he was not believed."

When he returned, Mr. Epstein landed a job as a biology teacher at Weequahic High School. He would eventually become the school's principal and serve as assistant superintendent in the Newark school system.

One of the students in his advanced biology class was his own daughter, Miriam, who remembered him as a dynamic, engaging teacher. "He was a good storyteller and he could tell a good story about biology - as well as about the Holocaust," his daughter said. "He was the opposite of boring." Mr. Epstein also loved to share his knowledge outside the classroom.

He had that very peculiar talent of taking a complicated thought and reducing it to a nugget and encapsulating it in a few words, and then forcefully delivering those words," said Jeffrey Cahn.

"No matter how complex the subject, he could teach it to anybody in almost no amount of time," added Cahn, who recalled a very enlightening conversation in which his father-in-law helped him to quickly grasp the basic concepts of labor negotiations.

Longtime friend Lawrence Lehman recalled Mr. Epstein as a very intelligent, articulate and well-read man who knew several languages. "When he took a position in any kind of debate or discussion, you had to be pretty good to show where he was wrong," Lehman said. "And most of the time, he was right."

Mr. Epstein was a founder and president of the Newark Teachers Union and a consultant for collective bargaining for the National Association of Secondary Principals. He was also a former president of the Newark Principals Association.

In addition, he was President of the New Jersey Region of the American Jewish Congress, Vice President Emeritus of the Ocean County Jewish Federation, and a member of the Essex County Jewish Community Council.

In addition to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. Epstein is survived by his wife, Evelyn; a stepdaughter, Amy Berman-Dalcero; a stepson, Charles Pollack; a brother, Morris; a sister, Shula Lubar; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

*Editor's Note:*

*On Friday night October 29, 1999, Ben Epstein was honored by the Weequahic High School Alumni Association at its Homecoming Reception at Rutgers Law School in Newark. From 1961 to 1964, "Mr. Epstein" was my Principal and I renewed my relationship with him when I became a teacher in the Newark School System and he was the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools. It was an honor for me to have made the introductory remarks on that occasion for such a distinguished man.*

- Phil Yourish



# RENEWING THE WEEQUAHIC AND SHABAZZ FOOTBALL RIVALRY

By Barry Carter, Star-Ledger

Robert Woodard will not be in a rush to wake up Thanksgiving morning. He says he will probably sit around the television for NFL football games, a habit he still has not grown accustomed to after going to the annual Turkey Day game for years at Newark Untermann Field.

"You never thought about games on television in the past when Shabazz and Weequahic played," Woodard said. "You were in a rush to get up. You wanted to get there early so you could get a seat."

He hasn't done that since 1993, the last time the Weequahic High School Indians and the Shabazz High School Bulldogs battled for bragging rights in front of crazed alumni wearing school colors and singing fight songs.

Weequahic defeated his alma mater, 21-13, that year, but Woodard says witnessing the loss wasn't as bad as knowing that the game - dubbed the final conflict - would end the rivalry that thousands attended before eating their Thanksgiving meal.

"Now I don't do nothing but wish there was a game at Untermann Field," said Woodard, a 1983 graduate and former cornerback. Woodard said he plans to add his name to a petition spearheaded by Tony Green, a Newark city clerk's office employee who is seeking to resurrect the rivalry that Weequahic and Shabazz alumni talk about with fervor this time every year.

Green, an Arts High graduate who attended Weequahic for one year, has collected over 300 signatures, many of which belong to Weequahic and Shabazz graduates whose eyes light up with nostalgia just thinking about the possibility.

"It troubled a lot of people when they took away that game," said Green, whose family members are Weequahic alumni. "I'm a big fan. You miss the camaraderie of all the people on that day. This was the biggest rivalry in the

city, and I want to try to re-establish that game."

Green with help from the office of Newark at-large Councilwoman Bessie Walker, is looking to set up a meeting with athletic directors of both schools and plans to submit the petition to the NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the governing board of high school sports.



"People come up to me all the time and say, 'Why can't we play,'" said Alex Colatrella, athletic director at Weequahic. "There are inter-conference commitments. It's very intricate. If someone figured out a way to make it happen, I'm all for it.

The rivalry officially ended in 1993, but its demise began when the Newark City League disbanded in 1988 and Newark schools were mandated by the courts to join suburban conferences. ...A lawsuit was filed against the NJSIAA alleging discrimination because Newark and other urban schools were not invited to state playoffs on the basis that their schedules were not strong enough.

In its heyday, the game was a homecoming. Alumni who had moved would come back to spend Thanksgiving with family and reminisce with classmates of years gone by. They would gather in a section called the "Old Heads" and sing alumni songs as the younger generation looked on, marveling at the school spirit swirling around the stadium. Even half-time was a treat with the school bands battling as hard as the teams, putting on performances similar to duels today between historically black college bands.

The matchup was known as the Turkey Day game and more colorfully as the "Soul Bowl" because of the fashionable clothes alumni would wear. The styles ran the gamut from bell bottom pants, iridescent shirts and fur coats to stingy brim hats, alligator shoes and white go-go boots with fish-net and window pane stockings. On that day, alumni said, relatives and sweethearts took sides, pledging allegiance to their alma mater with a healthy dose of trash talking until the game was over.

## REQUEST:

*If any Weequahic alumni have stories about the Weequahic - Shabazz Thanksgiving Day rivalry or the older Weequahic - Hillside football rivalry, please send them in.*

## WHS Alumni Working at Beth Israel Hospital

Kim Broxton-Dunlap - 1975  
Kindness Carr-Pigford - 1985  
Dr. Alan Cooperman -  
Kaietha Coston - 1989  
Dr. Julian Decter - 1962  
Donna Dennis-Morgan - 1979  
Carol Dunn - 1971  
Kim Greene - 1985  
Betty Harris - 1969  
Tawan Koonce - 1988  
Dr. Robert Levinson - 1965  
Michael McAdams - 1975  
Gwen McCleary-Mann - 1968  
Nana Owusu - 1980  
Adilah Quddus - 1971  
Sharon Rogers - 1986  
Susan Schottenfeld - 1969  
Jacqueline Thompson - 1971  
Jackie Williams - 1980  
La Fonda Williams - 1990  
Toni Wright - 1983  
Jacqueline Wright-Jackson - 1986

## Remembering The Old Deli's in Newark

*Bragman's  
Chancellor  
Hobby's  
Kartzman's  
Lipschitz's  
Peterman's  
Stash's  
Sydney's*

*The name Calumet originally symbolized masculinity and femininity and was used by the Native Americans of the Eastern regions and Midwestern plains to serve a dual purpose. The legendary Calumet functioned in ceremonies as a pipe of peace and one of war.*



# "SWEDE"

A Star-Ledger article  
by John McLaughlin

In the mid-1930's, Newark's Jews began to move in big numbers out of the city's old Central Ward to newer and better neighborhoods in the South Ward. They were drawn in part by the new Weequahic High School and they would make it perhaps the most academically accomplished in America.

In time, this community would produce national heroes like Dore Schary, the movie magnate and playwright, and Philip Roth, the novelist. But at the time, the reigning celebrities were Abner "Longie" Zwillman, the gangster-politician-philanthropist, and Seymour Masin, a wondrous athlete of extraordinary versatility.

Philip Roth is 13 years younger than Masin and presumably never saw him play ball. But the author never forgot him. Fast, tough and smart, Masin was at one time or another during his days at Weequahic the best football and basketball player in the city and a track star to boot. An athlete so good that at 15, with almost no training, he threw the 8-pound shot put 57 feet, 6 inches for a record that would last 45 years.

Zwillman was appreciated for his power and influence. But Masin, 6 feet tall and 200 pounds with blond hair and blue eyes, inspired awe and not a little love. He went away to camp in the Catskills one summer, when he was 7 or so, and he came back to Newark with a new first name - "Swede."

He is still trim at 190 pounds and still very strong, if his handshake is any indication. Swede Masin is 79 now and long retired as a liquor salesman. He lives in South Orange and he's a walker. In bad weather, he strides through malls. Some years ago he discovered the joys of walking in Manhattan. When the weather's good, he'll often take the train to Penn Station, head uptown and have lunch on the campus of Columbia



University. A 10-mile round trip. Other times he'll head south and wander around Chinatown or Wall Street.

A couple years ago, Masin having heard that Philip Roth had just published a novel whose protagonist was a blue-eyed blond Jewish athlete who starred at Weequahic High in Newark, stopped off at a Midtown office to check in with a businessman he knows. They repaired to a bookstore, where Masin turned to the first page of "America Pastoral," Roth's novel. The book opens with a two-word sentence: "*The Swede*."

The first name of Roth's *Swede* was Seymour, too. Only the last name, Levov, is different. Levov has a daughter, Merry, who blows people up as a way of protesting the war in Vietnam. He is a man uncomfortable with his Jewishness. He is relentlessly introspective, soft when he should be firm, and self-pitying. A hard-to-like, harder-to-respect kind of guy.

*Swede* Masin isn't like that. But of the dozens of real-life Newarkers that Roth has re-created in his novels over the years, none is as close to the original

model as *Swede* Levov is to *Swede* Masin.

...So when the book was published, lots of people Masin hadn't seen in years called or looked him up and a good many asked whether Masin's daughter had gotten into the kind of trouble Merry Levov did in the book, which she most decidedly had not. Did Roth ever contact him? Ever ask if the novel caused him any pain? "He couldn't do that. It would give it away. He had to cover himself. It was smart, the way he handled it.

Some people, lawyers, too, thought I should sue for invasion of privacy or whatever. It isn't as though he made me out to be a bad person. He was writing a book of fiction. And you know, I enjoyed the experience. Meeting new people, hearing from people who hadn't been in touch for so long...it was fun," *Swede* told me.

Masin met Roth for the first time in 1997 at a homecoming party for the famous author at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. "You changed my life, Phil," said *Swede*. "No, you changed my life," said Roth. And Roth was right about that because the real *Swede* Masin made the fictional *Swede* Levov possible and *Swede* Levov was the character who carried Roth to a Pulitzer Prize for "American Pastoral."

In the intervening months, they've exchanged a few notes, one of which, from Roth to Masin and dated April 20 of last year, reads "*Dear Swede: Couldn't have done it without you.*"

No he couldn't. Seymour Masin is pushing 80. His fame, always parochial, has long faded. But he has experienced what amounts to a second coming. He runs for touchdowns and grabs rebounds and soars over hurdles, not in his memories like other old men. But on the pages of a book read by hundreds of thousands of people.

**He is "*The Swede*."**

## ***ALUMNI PROFILE:***

# **Sheldon Bross**

### ***Class of 1955***



Sheldon Bross, our Treasurer and one of the founders of the three-year-old Weequahic Alumni Association, has been in Newark all of his life (except for 6 months in the Army) which he claims was the "most relaxing 6 months of my life."

After graduating Weequahic in 1955, he attended Newark Rutgers School of Business Administration and Rutgers Law School in Newark.

*"Being a lawyer in Newark in the 60's was an exciting, fun-filled experience for me. I was able to put into practice the social consciousness about which Mrs. Rous taught me in my senior year at Weequahic."*

In 1964, he and Irwin Horowitz formed a law partnership in Newark which they continued until 1987, when Horowitz became general counsel to Hartz Mountain Industries, working with Gene Heller, Irwin's Weequahic classmate.

*"In the 60's, I got involved with a lot of non-profits as a lawyer volunteer. For the last 35 years I've been telling great stories about being a young Jewish lawyer in a Newark drug program where I learned that even with my 7 years of higher education, I was still no match for a street-smart drug addict."*

Bross became one of the first Certified Civil Trial Attorneys in New Jersey having qualified by trying numerous personal injury cases throughout New Jersey. An active Newark attorney, he is still very involved with many Newark civic organizations.

*"I stuck it out during the tough years in Newark and it's great to be a part of Newark's rebirth."* He practices law in Newark with his son Michael Bross who specializes in Commercial

Real Estate Development, primarily in the Newark area.

*"My son, Mike, who has been a lawyer in Newark for ten years, inherited my love of Newark and an appreciation for its rebirth."*

Mike recently represented a developer who placed a new International House of Pancakes Restaurant (I-Hop) across from Newark's University Hospital. It rapidly became one of the busiest I-Hops in the country.

*"It's great to vicariously enjoy the excitement that my son experiences from being instrumental in the development of the New Newark."*

Bross is a great fan of Newark's Mayor Sharpe James, Newark's best cheerleader and the prime mover in making Newark the hot spot in New Jersey for new business and development. When Weequahic's Marching Band won the National Championship, Bross addressed the band on behalf of the Alumni Association, congratulating the proud kids.

*"It was a rainy day and it was great to see Mayor James and Newark Council President Don Bradley taking out time from their busy schedules to come to Bergen Street to salute the kids."*

*"I go to Newark City Hall several times a week for both business purposes and to meet my many friends in Newark government, some of whom are Weequahic graduates. I wish more people could spend time with me, witnessing the bright, hard-working, sincere people presently governing the City of Newark. I am not naive and I'm not gullible, but I sincerely believe in the high level of integrity of Newark government."*

Bross is optimistic about Newark and Weequahic's future.

*"The Weequahic Alumni Association is an inspiration. It enables us to give something back and it also bridges that very wide gap between the overwhelming white Jewish Weequahic of my years and the African-American Weequahic of recent years. We have a lot of fun together. We like each other."*

**Remembering  
Our Old  
Telephone  
Exchanges**

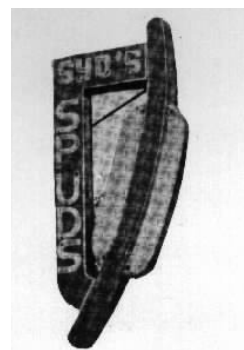
**☎ BIGELOW  
☎ ESSEX  
☎ HUMBOLT  
☎ MARKET  
☎ MITCHELL  
☎ WAVERLY**

**Remembering  
Our Bus Lines  
in Newark**

**3 - Bergen St.  
6 - Crosstown  
8 - Lyons Ave.  
9 - Clifton  
Ave.  
14 - Clinton Pl.  
27 - Mt.  
Prospect  
48 - Maple Ave.  
107 - New York**

**Remembering  
Weequahic's  
Principals**

**Max Herzberg  
Michael Conovitz  
Julius Bernstein  
Benjamin Epstein  
William Monprode  
Charles Brodsky  
James Barrett  
Pat Restaino  
Dr. James Wright  
Claude Scott Bey  
Lawrence Majors  
Richard Williams  
Charles Meadows  
Edna Bailey**



**Sheldon's Favorite Hot Dog**

## MAXINE BOATWRIGHT, POPULAR WHS TEACHER, PASSES AWAY

By Phil Yourish, Class of 1964

*On June 12, 2000, Maxine Boatwright, a favorite Weequahic English teacher for the past 20 years, passed away at age 55. She was also this year's Senior Class Advisor.*

It was September 1968 at West Kinney Junior High School. I was a 21-year-old rookie teacher anxiously wondering if I would make it through the first day. Then I met Maxine Boatwright. She immediately elevated my level of insecurity by telling me that this was a tough school and that I would be fortunate if I made it past the first two weeks. I did make it - and we became close friends for the next 32 years. I would like to share some of my thoughts about a wonderful teacher and a very beautiful individual.

Maxine's story is one of dedication and commitment. A typical scenario would find her toiling in her classroom late in the evenings as she shared the empty school building with the custodial staff. She was truly a "student's" teacher. For more than 33 years, her life revolved around her students. They were her passion - an integral part of her life. She enthusiastically believed in their potential and encouraged them to "reach for the stars" and take advantage of their opportunities. She continuously challenged her students to succeed and had a knack for making each student feel special.

Maxine embraced her African heritage and expressed her pride to her students on a daily basis. Her classroom had its unique identity and signature. It was a dynamic and creative encounter that immediately captured your attention. A tour of Maxine's classroom would reveal decorations representing the seasons and holidays; hanging mobiles; walls covered with posters; poetry; photographs; words of wisdom and reflection; and bulletin boards chock full of students' classwork. It reflected in a most genuine way her strong beliefs about education and life.

As a life-long resident of Newark, Maxine attended South Street and Oliver Street Elementary Schools before graduating from East Side High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bloomfield College and a Master of Arts Degree from Montclair State College. Prior to coming to Weequahic, she taught at Broadway Junior High School, West Kinney Junior High School, and Vailsburg High School.

*Maxine, you touched the lives of your students, colleagues, friends and family in a profound way. We will all miss you very much.*

“ ” ”

*Memories are precious; cherish them like gifts and fortunes  
Encouragement and inspiration must be provided  
Money is like a key; it opens lots of doors*



*Below are excerpts from an article that appeared in the Star-ledger in 1996 about Maxine and her class:*

### Teacher sees hidden talent in hallowed halls of Weequahic

By Barbara Kukla, Star-Ledger

Maxine Boatwright thinks her students are getting a bad rap. Boatwright, who's taught English at Weequahic High School for nearly three decades, has begun a one-woman campaign to refute the negative images adversely affecting her students. The hallowed halls of Weequahic, where author Philip Roth culled experiences and ideas for his hit novel, "Goodbye, Columbus," remains laden with talent, she believes. All it needs is unearthing.

By seeing the educational glass as more full than empty, Boatwright wants to dispel some of the myths and negativity generated by those unfamiliar with the school and its students. Despite their weak skills, Boatwright believes her students "are capable of producing at an above-average level," given heavy doses of encouragement and inspiration. They should not be judged solely on their test scores," the teacher said. "Given the opportunity, they all have the potential to produce 'A' work." When Boatwright's 9th and 10th-grade students recently balked at learning one of her favorite poems, "An Arabian Proverb," Boatwright challenged them to create their own Words of Wisdom.

In creating their own Words of Wisdom, the trick was for the students to use just two sentences or less, similar to the messages contained in Chinese fortune cookies. What's more, they had just 15 minutes to complete the assignments. Here's what they had to say (some of the their Words appear below):

*He who is wise is always able to compromise  
Cherish yourself before you cherish someone else  
Few people have wisdom; hope to be one of those people*



# REUNIONS

## *coming year*

### **1950 - 50th Reunion**

will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2000 at the Crestmont Country Club, 750 Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange from 12 to 4 PM. For additional information, contact Eileen Lerner Greenberg at (973) 379-4321

### **1960 - 40th Reunion**

for the June 1960 class is on Saturday, October 14 at 7 PM at the Sheraton - Woodbridge Hotel in Iselin, NJ. Contact Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert at (732) 462-4808

### **All California Alumni Reunion for Spring 2001** - Contact Samuel

Wasserson, Class of 1952, at Samuel61@aol.com

## *past year*

### **1940 - 60th Reunion**

took place at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel on June 25, 2000

### **1945 - 55th Reunion**

was held on June 11, 2000 at the Crestmont Country Club

### **1959 - 40th Reunion**

was on October 17, 1999 at the Hamilton Park Conference Center in Florham Park.

### **1969 - 30th Reunion**

took place at the Appian Way in Orange on November 26, 1999

### **All Florida Alumni Reunion**

took place this past winter

- Let us know about your class reunion plans.
- Invite a member of the WHS Alumni Committee to speak about the Alumni Association's activities and to sell Weequahic Alumni merchandise.
- We are collecting class lists for our centralized computerized database. Please send us yours.

## **ALUMNI FROM 1945 TOUR THE HALLS OF WHS**

By Michele Howe, Star-Ledger

Some of them hadn't visited their alma mater, Weequahic High School in Newark, since their graduation -55 years ago. That is, until June 9th, when 14 members of the January and June 1945 classes toured those halls to kick off their 55th reunion celebration, which took place on June 11th at the Crestmont Country Club in West Orange. A total of 118 classmates attended the gathering, along with 178 guests.

*"We had 305 graduates in our class and there were 238 in the January class. We're all 72 and 73 years old. It's good for us to be able to get together and talk over old times,"* said Dan Horwitz, a member of the reunion committee.

During a tour of the school, the former classmates got reacquainted. And most important - they reminisced. After a brief welcome by Edna Bailey, the school's principal, members of the Weequahic Jazz Ensemble performed for the visitors.

The high school, at 279 Chancellor Ave., was built in 1932, and the alumni were surprised to see that some things hadn't changed since their school days. *"It's great to see the old neighborhood, and the school is much the same as it was when we attended. I even remember where I used to leave my bicycle - at the back of the main staircase, without a lock,"* said Horwitz, a Cedar Knolls resident.

Asked how the idea came about to visit the school, he said, *"One of our classmates that lives in*

*Bethesda, Maryland, now talked about coming back here for 20 years. At first, we ignored him thinking 'who wants to come back to Newark now?' This time we finally listened."*

*"That's right,"* said Dan Skolar who has lived in Maryland since 1965. *"I kept insisting. It's much the same as I remembered."* Skolar, a chief administrative law judge of the Social Security Administration, is among a number of graduates who moved out of state.

Paul Goodman and his wife, Roz, came from Boynton Beach, Florida, to attend the reunion.

*"We've had several reunions since graduating, and I've been wanting us to come back here for a long time,"* he said.

*"The building is pretty much like it was. Even the lockers,"* said Frances Sachs Honig, a pianist and member of the January class. *"What I remember most, though, is how wonderful the teachers were. This was a great place to learn,"* the Englewood resident added.

This was the third combined reunion for the January and June classes. *"Those of us in the June class had our first reunion five years after graduation and no reunion for the 10th or 15th. Then we had a 20th,"* Horwitz said.

Fifteen years went by before the former classmates gathered for another reunion in 1980.

*"At our 35th, we decided to have a reunion every five years. In 1985, when we were publicizing the 40th, members of the January class asked if they could join, and we unofficially included them. They were officially included in the 1990 reunion,"* Horwitz said.

# 60 YEAR REUNION FOR 1940 CLASS

Excerpts From An Article  
By Lorie Russo, Star-Ledger

Robert Shack had been a good student at Weequahic High School, and particularly excelled at math and science. When he was a senior in 1940, the principal, Max J. Herzberg, asked him what he wanted to be. "I said an aeronautical engineer," recalled Shack, now a resident of Long Beach, N.Y., as he related the incident to his peers during the Class of 1940's recent reunion at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel.

Herzberg then asked him, "In what field?" Shack told him, "Helicopters." Herzberg, Shack recalled, went to the dictionary to look up the word and informed the student, "The word is helicopters." "What are you going to do?" asked Shack, who wound up doing wind tunnel testing for jet aircraft as well as for the first rocket ship operated by Chuck Yeager. "Argue with the principal?"

But the incident pointed to an important fact of high school life at the Newark high school. "We were instilled with a thirst for knowledge," recalled Shack, now a financial consultant with Solomon Smith Barney. "Our parents also created an atmosphere to do the best you can. I think we wanted to excel at whatever we did; we were really goal-oriented students."

Reunion committee member Jack Kamin of Union, who operated a shoe business in Newark for more than 20 years, agreed. "Our school was considered among the top-rated schools in the country," he noted. "Our principal was so respected that no one in school would dare do anything wrong. When I see these people, I think of all the things we did together," Kamin added. "I know them as well as I know my own family."

Kamin's wife of 57 years, Shirley Cohen Kamin, also is a member of the Class of 1940 and served on the reunion

committee. They began dating after both skipped school to attend a Frank Sinatra concert in Newark. He recalled that he saw her a few seats away and asked if she would share her sandwich with him.

The Class of 1940 had 401 members, according to Sonya (Susan) Fast Facher of West Orange, another reunion committee member. Out of that, 61 made it to the afternoon luncheon; because many of them brought a spouse or other guest, there were more than 100 people at the reunion. The former classmates, ranging in age from 77 to 79, reveled in sharing memories that ranged from Orange and Brown Association dances to graduation at Weequahic Park, where the racetrack grandstand offered sufficient seating for what was the school's largest graduating class.



*Estelle Herbst and Estelle Freed Oliner*

A total of 220 class members are still in contact with the reunion committee, noted Facher, a dietitian. Sixty have died - eight in World War II. Bernese Fisher Werner of Old Bridge still keeps newspaper clippings in her high school yearbook of classmates killed overseas. One clipping tells of Flight Officer Sidney Shertzer, reported missing at age 21 following a raid over Germany. Thumbing through the Class of 1940's senior yearbook, Werner pointed out Shertzer's picture. Underneath it was, "All the world's a stage and the men and women merely actors."

Under Werner's picture was the description, "An active girl, full of fun and joy." Said the great-grandmother, "I have good memories of high school. I

loved playing basketball and badminton and I used to really love to bowl."

She recalled how she and her friends went to the Shore for their graduation trip and roomed in a boarding house. "I think it was in Ocean Grove," she said. "We had a lovely time." Shirley Lowenthal Cohen of Springfield sat with one of her best pals from high school, Doris Lewitt Honigfeld of Verona. She mentioned that her brother, the late David Lowe, was a West Side High School alumnus who produced Edward R. Murrow's TV documentary "Harvest of Shame."

Both of them mentioned the pharmacy Honigfeld's parents owned at the corner of Broad and Fulton, next to the Broad Street Theater. The facade of the pharmacy, Honigfeld remarked, was captured by New Jersey artist Adolf Konrad in a painting which is part of the collection at the Montclair Art Museum.

Cohen, an artist who attended Cooper Union in New York City, and Honigfeld, who received a two-year secretarial certificate from Columbia University also remembered walks to the Osborne Terrace Branch of the Newark Public Library. Milton Steinhoff of Boynton Beach, Florida and Sol Eisner of Clark recalled a late classmate, Nathan Cupingood, who excelled at checkers. He could play checkers blindfolded," said Steinbach, who used to own a children's store.

As Kamin and committee member Dorothea Schechner Reichman of Verona began singing the school song, Harriet Hirsch Eisenberg of Verona, a gift store owner, echoed what others had recalled of their school days. Weequahic was a place, she said, where teachers taught "with vigor" and pushed students to learn. "We had a school that always had colleges coming in asking to take the brightest students," she remarked.

*"We were all very competitive and we were blessed with the best teachers who demanded obedience in the classroom. This really was a class the stars shone on."*

# FROM THE VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI

## From Theodore Lustig, Class of 1942

It's hard to believe it is 60 years since David Weingast, a member of the Weequahic faculty, chaperoned a bus load of students, myself among them, on a trip to the 1939 New York World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, NY. It was one of the high points of our high school years and, for many of us Depression kids, the only chance we might have to get to see this important event.

A quarter of a century later, I was working for a major chemical company and was given responsibility for two exhibits at the 1964 World's Fair at the same site. As a staff member of an exhibit, I had available a number of free tickets. Remembering Mr. Weingast, I thought it might be a good idea for me to thank him for taking us to the first Fair 25 years previously. I contacted the Newark Board of Education and was fortunate to learn he was then the superintendent of a school system in Connecticut, that he was married and had four children.

I wrote him a letter and enclosed six tickets, for him and his family. I told him it was in appreciation not only for his having taken us to the Fair those many years ago, but also because he had been one of my favorite teachers whose English classes I had always enjoyed. Shortly thereafter, he wrote me a note of thanks, saying he and his family were looking forward to going to the Fair. He asked, however, how I could have enjoyed his English classes so much since he taught history. So much for fond memories!

## From Rich Kaplan, Class of January 1960

Just received issue No. 2. It was great, as is the idea of an alumni group. I will be sending in my membership form and dues. Please send me a copy of newsletter No. 1. Thanks.

The story about Hannah Litzky brought back the memory of a day when the office called during my English class to tell Mrs. Litzky that a package had arrived for her. She sent me to fetch the package, which contained a bouquet of flowers from her husband to celebrate their anniversary. When she opened it, she cried. She was one of Weequahic's outstanding teachers.

## From Fran Kram Slifer, Class of 1965 and Arnold Slifer, Class of 1957

What perfect timing! The most recent alumni newsletter arrived just a few days before our daughter's wedding. Needless to say, things were so wonderfully hectic...but, when I saw "Weequahic" in print, I knew it was time to "tune out" and let my thoughts stroll down the path of memory lane and WHS. I just couldn't put it down until every word was read and mulled over. Thanks for all the smiles and a great newsletter at a very opportune time to reflect.

## From Rose Balsamo, Class of 1957

Received the issues of the Calumet and was delighted. It is definitely fun to revisit old times, old places. We had great times at Weequahic H.S. The class of January 1957 was very small (about 130 kids) and we all knew each other well. I would very much like to contact any and all members of that class. Perhaps you could publish this request in the next issue. Angela Carracino contacted me and she is in touch with Hanis Allison and a few others from our class. She called me on Sunday night and it was definitely old home week. Thanks again.

## From Jean Gorowitz Helfman, Class of 1952

Hearty congratulations to the organizers of the WHS Alumni Association and the Calumet. What a bright idea to involve alumni in local community service and to revive the nostalgia of wonderful high school years at "the school on the hill with the funny Indian name." Reading the pages of the Calumet opens the floodgates of memory, and years of youth rush by, slowly at first and then with cascading momentum. They were years filled with the sweetness and agonies of growing up, of challenges and disappointments, of hopes, dreams, and goals.

The teachers, the friends, the classes, the football games, the assemblies, the class plays - we learned, we grew, we cried, we laughed. I am happy to be able to identify with WHS, old and new. Allen and I have lived in Florida for over 25 years and communicate with old friends from Newark both here in Florida and in New Jersey. We are looking forward to a reunion that is being planned in South Florida for February or March, and I can already anticipate the excitement of seeing faces from our Weequahic past. Weequahic High School - welcome back to my life!

## From Dan Skoler, Class of 1945

Please forgive this belated note of thanks for the wonderful visitation program you organized and (and personally participated in) for interested members of the Weequahic Class of 1945 on the occasion of our 55th reunion last month. I enjoyed it tremendously and one of the highlights was the articulate picture you painted of Weequahic's future and where it was going within the Newark secondary education system. Being personally partial to jazz, I also got a big kick out of the special jazz ensemble presentation.

I am enclosing a \$100 check to be added to the high school's appropriate scholarship assistance resources but ask specifically that you add it to any donation for this or similar purposes you may receive from David Horwitz or other officers of our reunion effort and, if this occurs and should be ultimately labeled as a special Class of '45 fund or subfund, please include my donation as part of that group gift. Please extend my warmest regards to Alumni President Hal Braff and Alumni Coordinator Lorraine White who serve the school, those wonderful youngsters passing through its portals and crotchety "alums" like myself so well and so effectively.





## BEST BAND IN THE LAND

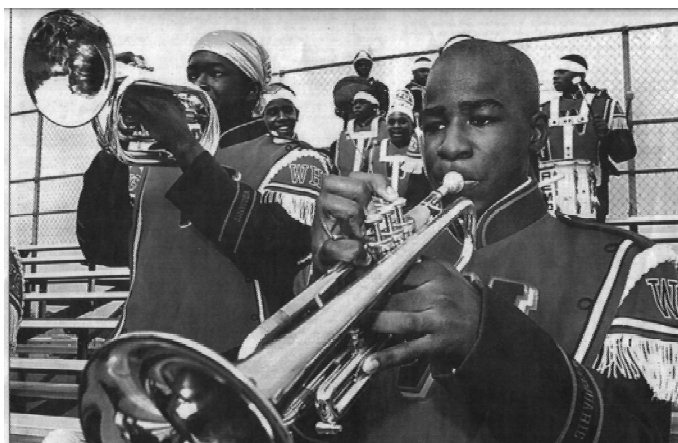
If practice makes perfect, the **Weequahic High School Marching Band** is the epitome of perfection. With its high-stepping majorette and super energetic twirlers, **the band won first place in the National High School Band Competition in Orlando, Florida during the week of May 17th.** What was even more amazing was that they were late for the event and had to change on the bus. When they got off the bus, they felt what they often feel when entering a contest - a sudden rush of excitement.

Music teacher Michael Page, who masterminded the Newark high school's winning performance, believes in being the best no matter what. And practice, he tells his young charges, is the key to success. "It was a good year. The challenge now is to defend the title next year." said Page.

Winning the national title has brought the band all kinds of accolades. Honors came from the mayor and council. For helping out in various ways to make the trip possible for the 38 band members and chaperones, the band expresses their appreciation to **Mary Singleton (Level One Bakery), Bergen Street merchants, Mayor Sharpe James, Councilman Donald Bradley, Jon Corzine, and the WHS Alumni Association**

When the band returned, they participated in the **South Ward African-American Festival** on May 20th. On a chilly and rainy day, the band marched from Weequahic, down Chancellor Avenue, to Bergen Street and Lehigh Avenue. Each band member received a trophy from Mayor Sharpe James. Later, everyone was invited to eat, compliments of Level One Bakery.

**WHAT A GRAND DAY IT WAS!**



## WEEQUAHIC'S OWN JAZZ SINGER

Encouraged by her music teacher, Michael Page, recent Weequahic grad **DESIREE MIDDLETON** took up jazz singing in her sophomore year. In June she received the **Governor's Award for excellence in arts education.**

As a sophomore, she won the \$500 first-prize award in the first Connie Woodruff Music Prize Competition for Newark high school students. In her junior year, she entered the competition again, capturing \$250 as the second-prize winner.

"I really didn't want to do it at first," Desiree recalled, "but then I decided to give it a try."

So try she did, and she liked it. Soon calls came in requesting Desiree to sing for events sponsored by groups like Project Excel, a youth program, and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. Often she is invited to sing opening numbers at school assemblies.

Desiree has been an integral part of the NAACP's ACT-SO competition. Last year, she won a silver medal in the statewide vocal competitions. This year, at the state level, she carried home a bronze medal. For the past two years, she has worked on her musical presentation and technique under the direction of Valerie Price, Weequahic's vocal teacher.



Active in sports, Desiree also was captain of the varsity girls' softball team and received honorable mention as a basketball shooting guard. As a result, she's been selected as her school's Scholar Athlete. "Desiree is a bit shy, so I don't think she realizes the potential she has," said Edna Bailey, her principal. "We're very proud of her, so we don't want to see her eliminate music from her interests."

At the moment, Desiree wants to own her own business - a soul food restaurant - one day. In the fall, she will enter Morgan State College in Baltimore to study business administration.

"My parents," she said, "have been my biggest influence."

## **Alumni Profile: CHARLES SMITH CLASS OF 1966**

Excerpts from a Star-Ledger article  
by Robert Braun



Charles Smith, the son of a Newark postal worker, was graduated from Harvard University in 1970 and the world lay welcoming before him, bright and shining with possibility. Since then, he dropped out of a seminary twice, taught as a substitute, worked briefly in the Newark mayor's office, tried college teaching, spent 10 years as a postal clerk, hoped to become a tennis pro, found he couldn't make a living as an artist, married, and divorced.

"But I think I know now precisely what I was meant to do," says Smith, now 52. He found it on a recent trip to a turbulent past. Back to Harvard, to a time more than 30 years ago when a shy, gentle young artist arrived on a campus that was

rolling with anger and frustration. And he had to make a decision.

"It wasn't an easy thing to do," he recalls. "The college warned me about losing my financial aid. I would have had to leave then." Leave and face the unbearable disappointment in his father's eyes. Nothing was more important to his father than for his son to be at Harvard. "He wouldn't have been more excited if he had been admitted," Smith says of the day in 1966 when the letter from Cambridge arrived at his home on First Street in Newark's Central Ward.

The decision he faced was whether to ignore what was happening around him, to focus on his books and his oils, or to join with other black students in forcing this prestigious and tradition-bound university to do what it did not want to do - create a separate department of African-American Studies. Smith joined.

Joined and found himself riding unpredictable waves of argument, dissent, demonstrations, building takeovers and threats of violence in what were probably the most tumultuous of Harvard's 350 years. "I would not personally engage in anything violent," says Smith. "But other students decided, as individuals, to engage in direct action."

Smith was proud to be at Harvard, one of a handful of black students on campus. But he was proud, too, to be African-American. Charles Smith was selected by his fellows to be one of 18 African-Americans to negotiate with

Harvard deans and dons about the creation of an African-American studies department. The department was created in 1970. The history of the department is long and tortured. It almost didn't survive because it failed to attract even African-American students. A decade ago, however, after Henry Louis Gates, Jr. became chairman and was joined by such distinguished faculty as Cornel West and William Julius Wilson, the department emerged as arguably the nation's pre-eminent center of its kind.

"I was part of it," says Smith, whispering with wonder at what he had won. "I helped to create it." A few weeks ago, the department - and its research arm, the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute - celebrated its history and success with a weekend symposium, climaxed by the surprise awarding of a new academic prize, the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal, to the men and women, no longer young, who made it happen.

Smith took the medal back to Independence High School in Irvington, the alternative school where he is arts coordinator, where he has worked less than two years. He thought about who he was then, who he is now.

"There was something about going back there, and seeing all that has happened. Remembering what we did then. It's convinced me my life should be here, with young people, teaching. That's what I am. A teacher." He takes the gold medal from its case. In the penetrating light of a classroom, it is bright and shining.

## **SEYMOUR BERNSTEIN a weequahic grad of note '45**

By Sheldon Bross

The June 8, 1999 cover story of the NY Times Sunday Magazine describes New York Times art critic Michael Kimmelman's intense preparation for an international piano competition in Fort Worth, Texas.

In the article, Kimmelman lauds the wonderful inspiration, devotion and teaching skills of his coach, Seymour

Bernstein (Weequahic, class of 1945). "I played to please him," says Kimmelman.

"He is the most intense, unequivocal teacher imaginable. He has a generous, imaginative and radar-precise musical intelligence." A photo contained in that cover story article shows Seymour in his New York studio training Kimmelman for the competition.

Seymour has performed both solo and in quartets and has taught piano all over the world. He served in the U.S. Army

during the Korean conflict and has taught and performed since his army discharge. He recently lectured in Taiwan and is the author of numerous acclaimed piano pedagogy books including "With Your Own Two Hands" published in 1981. In addition, Seymour has written a variety of works for the piano including "New Pictures At An Exhibition" which I heard performed at Lincoln Center.

Seymour lives in New York and Maine and continues to teach and coach piano in his West Side studio to many of the better known pianists in the New York area.

# TWO WEEQUAHIC GRADS PROMOTE LITERACY IN NEWARK

By Barbara Kukla, Star-Ledger

When Irene Daniels, a Newark resident and community activist, established the Little and Big Readers program, she didn't envision a broader educational role in the community. But it happened, anyway. At the end of July, she assumed the leadership of the Newark Literacy Campaign, a non-profit agency that provides one-on-one assistance to people of all ages who want to learn to read or improve their reading skills.

Daniels succeeded Phil Yourish who ended his five-year stint as director. After a transitional period as a consultant with the agency, Yourish will take a pre-retirement cross-country trip this fall in a motor home. "At this stage of my life, I want to follow my heart and spirit, establish new rhythms, seek some exciting experiences at a time when I can still fully participate in the adventure," Yourish said. "I look forward to some wonderful journeys ahead."

During July, Yourish and Daniels worked together to ensure continuity and a smooth shift in leadership, a task made easier by their mutual interest in their hometown and its people. Both have been active in the South Ward community and both are graduates of Weequahic High School- Daniels, Class of 1959 and Yourish, Class of 1964.

"We both believe that the renaissance in Newark must begin with literacy," the two agreed. "Our mission is to help children and adults improve the quality of their lives by learning to read better."

During Yourish's tenure, the 15-year-old literacy campaign - the lead agency in a citywide effort to ensure that all children are reading at or above literacy grade level - has expanded its literacy projects and services, increased participation by adults and children, and strengthened its volunteer training component.

With the help of his staff, Yourish also created new community-based literacy sites throughout the Newark area, introduced computer-assisted learning programs, and developed a computerized database for collecting participant information and generating reports. "Another goal was the stabilization and expansion of our funding base," said Yourish. "Fortunately, we were able to increase the amount of funds that come from our fundraising efforts."

Asked to ponder his legacy, he responded: "Bringing an infusion of new energy, vision and enthusiasm to a



distinguished organization that was experiencing some

I arrived." Like his two predecessors, Yourish led the Campaign for five years. In 1984, the agency was founded by Joan Lazar. She was succeeded by Linda Deusinger.

"With Phil's departure, we look to Irene Daniels to build upon NLC's previous success with a fresh vision and a sound approach for the future," said Patricia Jarecke, President of the Campaign's Board of Trustees.

Daniels said she was "happy and excited to do what I love - that is, promote literacy and work with the greater Newark community. Several years ago, she founded the Little and Big Readers, a successful reading group for children between the ages of 6 and 13 at the Weequahic branch of the Newark

founder of the South Newark Literary Society, a book club for

for the Ms Housing Authority Pageant program. She is a charter "fellow" of the Leadership Newark initiative.

Daniels has both a non-profit and profit background. A graduate of Rutgers University in Business Management, she has 20 years experience as a corporate manager at New Jersey Bell and AT&T. For the past 12 years, she has been President of her own consulting firm and an adjunct faculty member at New York University.

Over the years, she has conducted training sessions for board members of non-profit organizations, taught courses in career development and motivational training for Fortune 500 companies and provided cross-cultural business consulting

Yourish has pursued: increasing literacy sites throughout the community as well as training more volunteers. She also wants

develop ongoing recognition programs for volunteers and learners.

this year with the Adiembra Senior Secondary School in the West African country of Ghana." But that's another story!



## WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI & FACULTY IN THE NEWARK ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

### Newark Athletes of the Year

1991 - Regina Trotter - *WHS*

1996 - Daryl Handcock - *WHS*

### Hall of Fame Team

1966-67 WHS Basketball Team

### Hall of Fame Inductees:

#### 1999

Mike Mirabella - *Track and Field*

#### 1997

Mark Goldberg - *Football*

Luther E. Howard - *Multiple Sports*

#### 1996

Bert Geltzeiler

Lou Grimsley - *Basketball*

Ed McLucas - *Football at Central / WHS Faculty*

#### 1995

Mike Cohen - *Basketball*

Hal Ginsberg - *Central Coach/WHS Athletic Director*

Irv Keller

Sandy Salz

#### 1993

Dr. William Pollack - *Baseball*

#### 1992

Louis "Bucky" Harris

Dave Klurman - *Basketball at West Side/WHS Basketball Coach*

Art Lustig - *WHS Basketball Coach*

Christopher Pervall - *Basketball*

Ali Roberts - *Track*

Loraine White - *WHS Football Coach*

Dave Wolff

#### 1991

Tom Boose - *Basketball*

Harold Cohen

Gerry Greenspan - *Basketball*

Charles Schneider - *Player & Coach WHS Faculty*

#### 1989

Al "Bubba" Baker - *Football*

Lloyd Glicken - *Star Ledger Sports Writer*

Herb "Krautblatt" Kay - *Basketball*

Dennis "Mo" Layton - *Basketball*

Charles Meadows - *Football at West Side/WHS Former Principal*

#### 1988

Al Attles - *Basketball*

Sid Dorfman - *Star Ledger Sports Writer*

Les Fein - *WHS Basketball Coach*

Swede Masin - *Multiple Sports*

---

*Note: The 'year' represents the year of induction. If you know the name of the sport that is missing next to some of the alumni's names, please let us know.*



**1930's**  
**Seymour**  
**"Swede"**  
**Masin**  
*Football,*  
*Basketball,*  
*Baseball and*  
*Track*



**1950's**  
**Al Attles**  
*Basketball*

**1960's**  
**Dana Lewis**  
*Basketball*

**1960's**  
**Dennis "Mo"**  
**Layton**  
*Basketball*

**1970's**  
**Lou Grimsley**  
(Honorable Mention)  
*Basketball*



# JOIN THE WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**\$25.00** ANNUALLY

Now in our adult years, it's our turn to give back. Your membership in the Weequahic High School Alumni Association can provide scholarships and support for our current Weequahic students.

Moreover, in addition to money, we need your interest, your energy, your time, and your commitment to make our projects a success.

Create some space in your life to volunteer as a tutor or mentor. Employ a student if you own a business. Serve as a role model. Come to Weequahic and talk to students about your work and your accomplishments in life.

For us to realize our goals, we need your help. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved. You will feel rewarded through your involvement in our activities and by helping others.

Students at Weequahic will be able to enrich their lives by gaining new experiences, strengthening their skills, and exploring new opportunities.

## ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

The *WHS Alumni Association* wants to start an **ALUMNI HALL OF FAME** - representing alumni who have made outstanding achievements since graduation. Send us your nominations. Include names, years attended WHS, and a brief description of accomplishments.

## Weequahic in Cyberspace

### **WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI WEB SITE & E-MAIL:**

Through NJ Online, the Weequahic High School Alumni Association now has a web site full of recent and exciting information about our purpose, activities, and events.

The web address is:

<http://school.nj.com/cc/weequahicalumni>

Send e-mail for the Weequahic HS Alumni Association to Phil Yourish at **weequahic3@aol.com**

**CLASSMATES ON THE INTERNET:** Want to find a classmate; let alumni know about upcoming reunions; post a message to an old friend; announce marriages, births, anniversaries, and jobs; or just recall old memories?

Check out the following web sites:

<http://www.classmates.com>

[http://www.infophil.com/New\\_Jersey/Alumni/WHS](http://www.infophil.com/New_Jersey/Alumni/WHS)

<http://forums.nj.com/forums/get/reunions.html>

See our Weequahic HS Alumni Association messages at the above sites. You can register for free, have your name listed in the Weequahic HS directory, and post

## **WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI CALUMET STAFF**

Editor

PHIL YOURISH '64

### Contributors

Hal Braff '52  
Faith Howard '82  
Sheldon Bross '55  
Lorraine White '64  
Dave Lieberfarb '65  
Adilah Quddus '71  
Alumni Letters  
Star-Ledger Articles &  
Photos - Lucius Riley

### Pictures on Front Cover from Left to Right

First Row: Hal Braff, Faith Howard, Sheldon Bross  
2nd Row: Lorraine White, Phil Yourish  
3rd Row: Dave Lieberfarb, Adilah Thomas Quddus,  
Abdur-Rahmann A. Wadud (Glen Thomas)

**OUR APOLOGIES FOR PROBLEMS WITH  
MEMBERSHIP AND MERCHANDISE -  
WE PROMISE TO DO BETTER**

## ***Weequahic High School Alumni Association MEMBERSHIP FORM***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Weequahic Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name at Weequahic: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER?**   ☐ Membership   ☐ Events   ☐ Newsletter   ☐ Merchandise   ☐ Tutoring/Mentoring

**ORDER MERCHANDISE:**   ☐ T-SHIRT: \$15.00   ☐ HAT: \$18.00   ☐ SWEATSHIRT: \$35.00

*Delivery will be 3 weeks after your check is received and deposited*

**MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00**   Annually   ☐ New   ☐ Renewal   Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***If you haven't renewed your membership as of this mailing, please do so immediately.***

*For our next issue, send us articles, reunion information, best memories, and the names of your favorite teachers.*

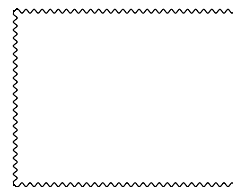
*Weequahic High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07102 / weequahic3@aol.com*

***Weequahic High School Alumni Association***

**P.O. Box 494**

**Newark, NJ 07102**

*Our New Address*



### **WHAT'S INSIDE:**

- ❖ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- ❖ THE CLASS OF 2000 - SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED
- ❖ BEST BAND IN THE LAND
- ❖ WEEQUAHIC'S OWN JAZZ SINGER
- ❖ BENJAMIN EPSTEIN, FORMER WHS PRINCIPAL
- ❖ 5TH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE CARL STEWART
- ❖ HONORING SPORTSWRITER SID DORFMAN
- ❖ MAXINE BOATWRIGHT, POPULAR WHS TEACHER
- ❖ SWEDE MASIN MEETS PHILIP ROTH
- ❖ RENEWING WHS-SHABAZZ FOOTBALL RIVALRY
- ❖ ALUMNI PROFILE: CHARLES SMITH, '66
- ❖ ALUMNI PROFILE: CAREY HAMILTON, '75
- ❖ ALUMNI PROFILE: SHELDON BROSS, '55
- ❖ LEO PEARL, FORMER TEACHER AND VICE PRINCIPAL
- ❖ 2 WHS GRADS PROMOTE LITERACY IN NEWARK
- ❖ VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI
- ❖ REUNIONS ARTICLES FOR 1940 & 1945
- ❖ ALUMNI IN NEWARK'S ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME